

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,  
1956-present

University Relations

---

10-23-1975

### Representatives of religious studies department and scholars press to attend Chicago meeting

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Representatives of religious studies department and scholars press to attend Chicago meeting" (1975). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 24464.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/24464>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

Information Services • University of Montana • Missoula, Montana 59801 • (406) 243-2522

IMMEDIATELY

REPRESENTATIVES OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT  
AND SCHOLARS PRESS TO ATTEND CHICAGO MEETING

sale/drs/rb  
10-23-75  
state + cs +

MISSOULA--

Faculty members from the University of Montana Department of Religious Studies and representatives of the Scholars Press at UM will participate in the annual national meeting of learned societies in the field of religious studies Oct. 30-Nov. 2 in Chicago, Ill.

Meeting concurrently will be the American Academy of Religion (AAR), the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) and several smaller groups.

Scholars Press is preparing a major exhibit for the annual meeting, and the staff for the Center for Scholarly Publishing and Services will be present to handle memberships and subscriptions for sponsoring societies.

About 2,500 scholars and teachers from the U.S. and Canada are expected to attend. More than 550 program items are scheduled for the five-day period, in addition to numerous committee and board meetings.

Dr. Robert W. Funk, chairman of the Department of Religious Studies and director of Scholars Press at UM, is currently president of the SBL, which has approximately 3,500 members.

Funk's presidential address in Chicago will be on the topic, "The Watershed of the American Biblical Tradition." He will discuss the formation of the first indigenous school of biblical interpretation, formed at the University of Chicago 1890-1920, which represents the decisive break with old European traditions.

Funk is also editor of "Semeia: An Experimental Journal for Biblical Criticism," which is sponsored by SBL. As president of SBL and director of Scholars Press, Funk will be participating in several board and committee meetings during the Chicago meeting.



Dr. John D. Turner, assistant professor of religious studies at UM, will present a paper entitled "The Gnostic Threefold Path to Enlightenment: The Legacy of Plato." His paper will deal with a theme treated in a forthcoming book.

Doug Adams, assistant professor of religious studies, who recently was named assistant director of Scholars Press, will lecture on the subject, "Presidents and the Devil: Religious Dimensions of Humorous American Lithographs (1830-1865)."

That lecture grows out of Adams' work last year at the Smithsonian Institution. He will also participate in a symposium on Michael Polanyi. Scholars interested in the study of Native American Religions will attend sessions under the leadership of Dr. Joseph Epes Brown, an associate professor of religious studies at UM. Brown, who specializes in Native American Traditions, is the founder of this segment of the AAR's annual program.

Ted Estess, a visiting professor of religious studies at UM for the academic year 1975-76, will present a paper entitled "Choosing Life: Reflections on Elie Wiesel's 'The Oath.'" Estess is assistant professor of religious studies and director of the Honors Program at Le Moyne College, Syracuse, N. Y. He will be accompanied to the meeting by Sybil Estess, assistant professor of English at Onondaga Community College, who is on leave this year to work on her doctoral dissertation. She will also be giving a paper on "Maps as the Necessary Angels of Earth: Reality and Imagination in the Poetry of Elizabeth Bishop."

Prof. Ray L. Hart, presently on leave to the State University of New York, Stony Brook, will attend the meetings in his capacity as editor of the "Journal of the American Academy of Religion" and member of the AAR Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

William C. Shepherd will attend as book review editor of the "Journal." Shepherd has been awarded a Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowship and is on leave from UM during 1975-76. Dr. Lane C. McGaughy, an assistant professor, will participate in the meeting of the SBL Centennial Committee.

In addition to the faculty of the UM Department of Religious Studies, four members of the Scholars Press staff will travel to Chicago to supervise the Press exhibit booth during the meeting. The Press will have on display over 100 new titles it has published for sponsors in the last two years. Included among them will be new books by members of the Department of Religious Studies: "Jesus as Precursor" by Funk and "Thomas the Contender" by Turner. Staff members who have arranged the exhibit and will manage it are: Char Matejovsky, administrative assistant; Jamar Pearson, membership services secretary; Lacy Widener, bookkeeper; Liane Kirsch, production aide, and Cyndy Sweitzer, administrative aide in the UM Department of Religious Studies.